

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernest Brooks Sr. of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Ernest Brooks Sr. of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, a Jackson native, Mr. Brooks attended Jackson City Schools during segregation, an experience that would ultimately result in a lifelong commitment to fighting inequality; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Brooks Sr. received his bachelor's in education from Lane College, where he participated in the 1960s sit-ins with the hope of bringing radical change to the racially divided South; and

WHEREAS, he then pursued his master's and educational specialist degrees at Murray State University before earning a Ph.D. in education from Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate for education, Mr. Brooks served as counselor for public schools in Sikeston, Missouri, dean of student affairs at Lane College for six years, and an instructor at Prairie View A&M for eight years until accepting a teaching position with Jackson State Community College in the department of continuing education; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving Jackson State, he worked for American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus, a provider of supplemental insurance, but he never lost his passion for education and continued to advocate on behalf of local schools as chairman of the education committee at the local and state levels; and

WHEREAS, a longtime civil rights activist, Ernest Brooks Sr. served as the president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through which he oversaw the final stages of the desegregation lawsuit against the local public school system, charter member and president of 100 Black Men of West Tennessee, and a mentor to countless young people in the Jackson community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks was also a devout member of Cumberland Missionary Baptist Church, where he greatly inspired his fellow congregants with his enthusiasm for public service; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated family man, his memory will be forever cherished by his wife, Patricia, and his three children, Chris, Danielle, and Jackson City Councilman Ernest Brooks II; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Brooks Sr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ernest Brooks Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Brooks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.